

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, please note that claims 16 and 17 have not been indicated as having been treated by the Examiner.

In response to the objection to claim 1 noted in section 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, please note that claim 1 has been amended to change the word "would" to --wound--.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 14 and 15, though it is believed that claims 3, 9 and 14 were sufficiently clear as filed, these claims have been amended so as to eliminate any possible confusion with regard to the subject matter of these claims.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibukawa et al. in view of Nishiyama et al. And, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibukawa et al. in view of Nishiyama et al. and Fukuno et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the references relied upon by the Examiner are not applicable with regard to the currently amended claims for the following reasons.

In relying on Shibukawa et al. as a primary reference, the Examiner expressed that Shibukawa et al. has a first interior permanent magnet 4 that has at least two magnet pieces 4A and 4B separated from one another, in a direction of the axis of rotation of rotor 1, by an electrical insulator.

Claim 1 was intended to cover an embodiment having magnet pieces separated in a manner as shown by Figures 2 and 3, for example, but not separated as shown by Figure 4. Accordingly, in order to more clearly recite what was intended by claim 1 as

originally filed, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first interior permanent magnet includes

at least two magnet pieces separated from one another, along a plane that does not extend transverse to the axis of rotation, by an electrical insulator.

Magnet pieces separated in such a manner are clearly not taught or suggested by Shibukawa et al., since the magnet pieces 4A and 4B thereof are separated from one another along a plane that does extend transverse to the axis of rotation of the rotor 1 of Shibukawa et al.

Thus, because Shibukawa et al. does not teach or suggest the magnet pieces being separated as recited in currently amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over a combination of Shibukawa et al. and Nishiyama et al., or a combination of Shibukawa et al., Nishiyama et al. and Fukuno et al.

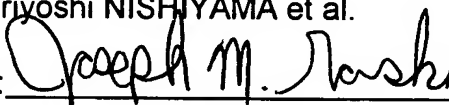
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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